



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES \$200,000 FOR SMITHTOWN SENIORS PASSES KEY PANEL

Funds Would Purchase 3 Vans for Town Senior Citizen Center

Washington, DC—Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton) today announced that \$200,000 to purchase three vans for the Smithtown Senior Citizen Center has passed its biggest hurdle. Bishop worked to include the funding in the Fiscal Year '04 Transportation Appropriations Bill, which recently passed the House Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

“These vans are a lifeline for Smithtown seniors,” Bishop said. “This is beneficial for our community on many levels—improving mobility for our seniors and easing traffic on our roads which has the added benefit of lowering pollution.”

Bishop pushed the Appropriations Committee for this provision to be included in the bill, including an April letter he sent to the committee. The bill must now be passed by the full committee and the House and Senate before it is signed by President Bush. However, this provision is expected to remain in the bill.

“We’ve passed the biggest hurdle, but I will continue to fight until we hand over the van keys to the Senior Center,” Bishop said.

The vans would allow seniors to do business in the community they might not otherwise be able to do, and would transport seniors to other modes of public transportation (such as local Long Island Railroad stations). Bishop credits Smithtown Supervisor Pat Vecchio with making him a more effective advocate for Smithtown’s needs.

“I would particularly like to thank Pat Vecchio who has been relentless in fighting for this project and in making sure I had all the information to make me an even more effective advocate for Smithtown’s seniors,” Bishop said.

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